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Department of History, Arts and Libraries

HB 4940, a bill that proposes moving the Library of Michigan into the newly created Department of History, Arts and Libraries, was revised and passed out of the Committee on Commerce.

On June 28, it passed the House. Please watch <http://michiganlegislature.org> for the latest developments.

Prime Time Family Reading Time Reaches Out to Kalamazoo Families

By Kristine Tardiff, Youth Services Specialist

At the Kalamazoo Public Library several families gathered for the fifth week of a family reading program called "Prime Time Family Reading Time." Excited children rushed up to Susan Warner, head of children's and branch services, to hand in last week's books and make nametags for this week. After dinner together, the younger children went with Mary Rife, childcare attendant, plus a gaggle of teenage volunteers, to sing, dance, and make special Mother's Day hats. The older children moved with their parents into the main library and the magic began.

Family groups that didn't know each other five weeks ago, now sat together and sang, played, and discussed not only the themes of the books they read but their own lives, dreams and goals. There was a sense of comfort and security within the group. Everyone knew they were part of an important, even life-changing experience.

Created by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Prime Time Family Reading Time is a reading, discussion, and storytelling series that fosters high academic expectations and achievement for the children.

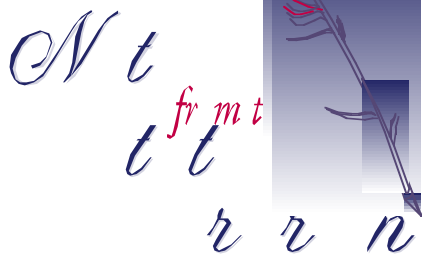
Prime Time helps low-income, low-literacy families bond around the act of reading and learning together by using a storyteller and a discussion leader to work with the group to tell stories and elicit responses that delve deeper than comments about illustrations and characters. Children and their parents are asked to participate in a discussion of themes such as family history, justice, freedom, dreams, fairness, courage, tradition, trickery and other topics.

Another goal of the program is to encourage parents to enter or continue their own educational programs and goals. It can reach an audience that has never used the library, and they also can bond as a family around the reading and storytelling.

Last year, libraries around the country were given the opportunity to apply for a grant to fund a Prime Time series in their libraries. The Kalamazoo Public Library applied for and was awarded a grant for spring of 2001. Mary Doud, assistant director for public services, and Warner were confident they could run a successful Prime Time series. The Kalamazoo Public Library presents many high quality programs for children and families and they felt sure this would be another.

Storyteller Robin Nott and discussion leader Ruth Heinig were hired to lead the six-week family program. Since the program is designed for children ages 6 to 10, Rife was hired to lead her own program for the younger children. Warner worked with local social and family organizations to identify potential families for the program. Initially, 20 families showed interest and 10 families attended the sessions on a regular basis. To give the program easy access, the grant included funding for transportation to and from the library, and a healthy dinner before each program.

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We know public libraries are important to the people of Michigan, but do we know HOW important? The PR Action Team, (now known as PRISM) a group that grew out of the Preferred Futures Conference, is discussing how to determine the current attitude of the state's residents towards libraries.

As an initial step, three questions were added to a health services survey done by Mark Harris, Director of Marketing at Genesys Health System. The random survey contacted 1800 adult Michigan residents and asked three simple questions.

The first question asked was: How often do you use a public library? About half the respondents (46%) said they use their local public library with a frequency ranging from every week to once a year.

The second question asked was: On a scale from 0-10, how important is the public library to the quality of community life in Michigan? More than 80% ranked its importance as 8 or above, with the mean being 8.68 and the median 10.

The third question asked was: How important is the public library to the education of children in Michigan? A resounding 87% ranked the importance as 8 or above, with the mean at 9.08 and the median 10. WOW!

The Promoting Reading and Information Services for Michigan (PRISM) team, chaired by Roger Mendel, plans to use these initial results to create a more in-depth survey which may lead to a statewide marketing campaign for libraries.

A recent survey done by Cyber-state.org and entitled **Information Technology in Michigan**, was completed in February of this year. This random telephone survey of 800 adult Michigan residents found that 59% of Michigan households have at least one computer, a number relatively unchanged from a similar survey in 1999. However, Internet access by residents is up from 54% in 1999 to 63% in 2001. Incidentally, 35% of those surveyed have made at least one online purchase, triple the number from a survey done in 1998.

What do these two sets of statistics have in common? I can only speculate, but I would guess that one of the reasons that libraries are considered important to community life is, among other things, because of the Internet access that so many of our libraries offer. It's a wonderful new resource bringing information from around the world to Michigan library patrons.

Have a happy Summer!

Kirstie

Future Librarian at Work

By Martha McKee, Interim Public Information Officer

On Thursday, April 26, 2001, Kirstie Mason went with her stepmom, Lori Poznanski-Mason, to work at the Library of Michigan. Kirstie and Lori were participants in **Take Your Daughter to Work Day**. Stepmom Lori works at the Library as secretary to both Public and Technical Services Divisions. Jo in the passage below is Jo Budler, Library of Michigan's Deputy State Librarian, who had given Kirstie a library assignment. Her assignment was to check out the kid's programs on one of the computers purchased by the Library from the Marion and Bill Gates Foundation. Kirstie sent her report to Jo via email:



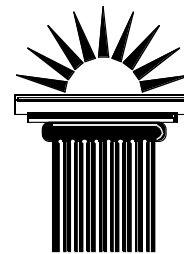
Dear Jo,

I liked the computer. It was fun. I played Arthur's Reading. I played with Arthur and Muffy and Francine made a machine that we played on. Arthur, Buster, and me made a story. Mr. Ratburn did a spelling test and I got to check all the words! Muffy and me played a match game. Kirstie

Kirstie, six, usually spends her "work" days in the first grade at Elmhurst Elementary School in Lansing. Proud stepmom Lori—brags, "Kirstie loves to read and to be read to. She was tested recently and is reading at a second-grade, seventh month level."

We hope we see Kirstie again in fifteen years or so—as a member of our staff!

Focus on Giving



LI Y F
M I C H I G N
F U N T I N

The Glen L. Bachelder Fund —Leaving a Lasting Legacy to Benefit Future Generations

By Sarah D. Watkins, Executive Director, Library of Michigan Foundation

When you first meet Glen Bachelder he might seem a bit reserved, but look a little closer and you'll see a merry twinkle in brown eyes that burn brightly with intelligence and curiosity. Curiosity and a deep desire to solve mysteries are the things that motivate this Lansing resident to work long and hard on the puzzles of the past that impassion a true genealogist, a term that aptly describes Glen.

A one-time Romney-Milliken staff person and retired state executive, Glen Bachelder works tirelessly in piecing together his family's ancestry. He has successfully proven the Bachelder lineage all the way back to his Mayflower descendents (James Chilton and Francis Cooke), to the Plantagenet kings of Britain, to distant kinship to nineteen presidents, as well as to Winston Churchill, Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, and Diana, Princess of Wales. Over the years, Glen has joined many state and regional genealogical societies as they became useful links in developing his own family history. And, his search has brought him into contact with more than a few distant relatives who have generously supplied him with photographs of grave headstones, family records, and copies of legal documents that have provided valuable pieces in the puzzle of his heritage.

In the more than 17 years that Glen Bachelder has been immersed in genealogy, he has made great strides. In 1991, he published the ancestry of his father (*Bachelder of Alamo, Michigan*), a work he is revising and extending for a second edition. He also compiled and published a collection of letters dated 1835 to 1935 from his family's Kalamazoo County homestead that included Civil War letters written to his great-grandfather.

Several years ago, when Glen Bachelder established his living trust, he simultaneously decided to leave a major portion of his estate to the Library of Michigan Foundation. Why? Because, as he says, "It is important to me to assist in enhancing the Library of Michigan's genealogy collection and also to commemorate my genealogical efforts."

Thus, the Glen L. Bachelder Fund of the Library of Michigan Foundation was created in October of 1998 to benefit the genealogy collections and services of the Library of Michigan. Glen has endowed his fund and prepared to leave a legacy through his estate. He wishes the income from the Fund to be used to enhance the Library's status as a major genealogical resource center. Glen advises that, "I hope to increase the collection with whatever resources best assist families and individuals in tracing their own family histories." He hopes his example will encourage others to include the Foundation in their estate planning.

Bachelder recently joined the Board of Directors of the Library of Michigan Foundation. He brings a wealth of wisdom and experience to this position. As a genealogist, a donor, a board member, and an individual who actually enjoys the challenges of the New York Times Sunday crossword puzzle, he is a man to be applauded.





Continuing Education - Planning Ahead

By Jo Budler, Deputy State Librarian

It's that time of year—summer—when we are busy tending gardens and their harvest, planning vacations, and looking forward to summer reading program celebrations. It's also the time to plan continuing education opportunities for Michigan librarians and their trustees.

To assist you in your planning, the Library of Michigan will publish an updated Continuing Education Catalog that will include events from October 1, 2001 through September 30, 2002. The Catalog will also be available on our homepage. All changes and updates will be listed on our website: <http://libraryofmichigan.org/binary/continuinged.pdf>

The Library of Michigan has 2 important training sessions for directors and their board members scheduled.

What Are We Really Worth?

Your Library's Contribution To Your Community

By Martha McKee, Interim Public Information Officer

This fall the Library of Michigan and the Michigan Library Cooperatives will sponsor one of the most useful and successful workshops developed in recent years, "The Library's Contribution to Your Community." The one-day workshops will be taught by staff from the Southern Ontario Library Service (SOLS). Increasing your funding over the next two years is the goal for those who implement the information provided by the workshop.

To achieve this goal the SOLS model gives trustees and directors the tools necessary:

- to assess which data is most relevant within each community;
- to collect that data;
- to communicate the data so that it clearly demonstrates the library's value to the community.

With the known value of your library in hand, persuasion to increase funding becomes that much more effective. This workshop is particularly timely in light of the efforts of the Public Library Funding Initiative Group (PLFIG) to improve library funding in Michigan.

Those attending the workshop will participate in a step-by-step hands-on approach using a manual entitled **The Library's Contribution to Your Community Resource**. The manual shows library leaders how to:

- Determine baselines for performance measurement;

- Select the appropriate target audience in the community;
- Select and implement performance measures to determine the social and economic impact of your library's services;
- Document and communicate your library's value to the targeted audience;
- Prepare a preliminary strategy and work plan for your community.

The workshop will be held in the following five locations:

Howell Howell Carnegie District Library
September 25, 2001

Paw Paw Southwestern Michigan Library
Coop **September 26, 2001**

Midland Grace A. Dow Memorial Library
September 27, 2001

Indian River Indian River Area Library
October 3, 2001

Marquette Peter White Public Library
October 4, 2001

The cost of this workshop will be kept at a minimum to accommodate all budgets and the manual will be included as part of the registration fee.

Those attending will receive 5 CEU credits. A registration brochure will be mailed soon. Online registration will also be available at

<http://libraryofmichigan.org/welcome/calendar.html> in the near future.

Finance for Trustees, 101

Scott Brown, State Programs Manager, will repeat his popular basic finance workshops in the spring of 2002. These two-hour sessions give to trustees and library directors, the information they need to know to govern wisely. To be a good steward of the library's resources is a major trustee responsibility. This workshop provides good groundwork in that area.



Beginning Workshop

By Martha McKee, Interim Public Information Officer

Sixty library staff and board members from across the state attended the Library of Michigan's 2001 Beginning Workshop at North Central Michigan College, Petoskey.

From May 20-25, 2001, attendees heard from fifteen instructors on such subjects as selection and weeding, Internet training and technology issues, administration, children's and young adult services, reference, library law, public relations, cataloguing, and more. Kristine Tardiff, our new Youth Services Specialist, served as moderator of the week-long event with just one month's notice. Way to go, Kristine! Some of the comments written by participants included:

- "I came away feeling there is a great support system behind me . . ."
- "I loved this workshop . . . learned so much, my brain is on overload. I have made wonderful connections and made several good new friends."
- "The speakers were all approachable! They all gave us a way to contact them later."
- "So good to be able to connect with persons of like occupation, workplace, and experiences."
- "I learned a great deal this week and feel confident in returning to my home library with so much wonderful information."

Highlights of the week included a visit to McLean and Eakin Booksellers in Petoskey, dinner at the Bay View Inn, and an evening with Kathy-Jo Wargin, author of the wonderful "Legend" series of books for children.

The Library of Michigan thanks Elizabeth Andresen, Bay County Library System; Eunice Borrelli, Capital Area District Library; Marsha Boyd, West Branch Public Library; Margaret Braden, Traverse Area District Library; Bescye Burnett, Jackson District Library; Bruce Mills, Kellogg Community College; Elizabeth Nordin, Hesperia Public Library; Margaret Pavelka, Chippewa River District Library; and Sarah Redman, Capital Area District Library.

These veteran librarians volunteered their time to help new librarians serve their residents better. Library of Michigan staff members Carole Callard, Paul Groll, Carol McAllister, and Ellen Richardson also contributed their expertise at this productive gathering.



Be A Tourist in Your Own Town

On Saturday, June 2, 2001, the Library of Michigan participated in the 7th annual "**Be A Tourist In Your Own Town**" event. The event was created by the Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau to showcase greater Lansing's attractions and special events. The beautiful Library of Michigan building and its many wonderful services were highlighted by the library's Public Services and Library Development staff.

The Library of Michigan had a display set up with giveaways and promotional items. Demonstrations were also offered in the Computer Training Center on various ways to use the Internet.



Libraries Without Walls 2001

By Maggie Bacon, Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Supervisor, Library of Michigan

- "Thank you so much for hosting this event! I really learned a lot about the different kinds of equipment today."
- "I had no idea of the information available to me via the Internet. Thanks for the demonstrations and the giveaways."

These comments typify those made at the third Libraries Without Walls adaptive technology vendor fair held in May. "It is this kind of response that makes organizing these events so worthwhile," said Scott Norris, Library of Michigan Adaptive Technology Coordinator.

Promoting awareness and use of adaptive technology is a rich field of endeavor. It brought together staff from the Library of Michigan's Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, plus staff from five of its subregional libraries – Kent District, Muskegon County, Grand Traverse Area, Mideastern Michigan, and St. Clair County. The fairs were held in Grand Rapids and Port Huron. The vendor fair kick-off was at the Eberhard Center in Grand Rapids on May 8, 2001. On May 10, the fair moved to McMorran Place in Port Huron.

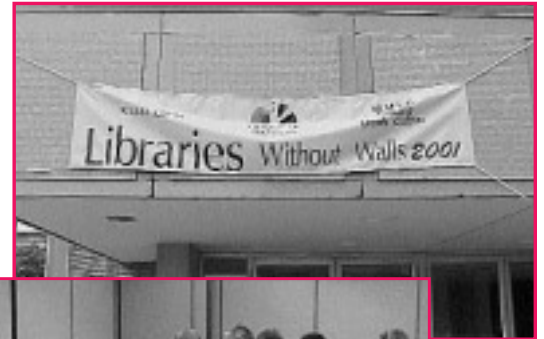
On both days, Norris held Internet tutorials every two hours, demonstrating accessibility tools for using the Internet. Representatives from many companies shared their products and services, including the group **Special Needs: Special Circumstances**. Founder Michael France conducts successful workshops for parents of children with disabilities.

Also present were representatives of many groups including: **Disability Awareness Center for Independent Living, Disability Network, Michigan Commission for the Blind, Michigan Protection and Advocacy, National Federation of the Blind Michigan Chapter, Disability Specialties, and Paws with a Cause**.

Adaptive technology vendors included: **Reading Alternatives, Vision Technology, Sensability Inc., Telesensory Inc., Henter-Joyce Inc., Humanware, Phillips Magnification, Artic Technologies, Low Vision Solutions, Magnisight, and GW Micro Inc.**

Adaptive technology vendor fairs in 2002 will take place in April in Ann Arbor and May in Northern Michigan, at a site yet to be determined. A Libraries Without Walls Conference at the Library of Michigan will be held on

May 7, 2002. For details on the information in this article please contact Andrew Wilson at 517.373.9467 or anwilson@libraryofmichigan.org.





Prime Time Families continued from page one


2001. Mary Doud, assistant director for public services, and Warner were confident they could run a successful Prime Time series. The Kalamazoo Public Library presents many high quality programs for children and families and they felt sure this would be another.

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For more information about the Prime Time Family Reading Time program, and possible opportunities for your library, contact Dana Eness, assistant director of Prime Time Family Reading Time, at (504) 523-4352 extension 126 or by e-mail at eness@leh.org. The program is offered in partnership with the American Library Association Public Programs Office and the State of Louisiana.



Leslie Devereaux, in honor of her grandfather and father, donated \$500,000 toward the construction of the new Crawford County Library. The Devereaux men started coming to the Grayling area in the 1920's to hunt and fish, and Ms. Devereaux says she is pleased to help build a facility that will serve the area they so treasured. County voters passed a \$1.5 million bond for the new facility last August. The new building, triple the size of the existing building, is scheduled to open in May of 2002.



The Bronson Center for Women has a new resource library, open 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday on the 5th floor of the new Bronson Hospital in downtown Kalamazoo. Shelves are full of information on women's health issues, along with a list of helpful web sites for women seeking health answers at http://www.bronsonhospital.com/content_long.asp?menu=Dc. The library can be reached at (616) 341-6100, extension 3.



Waukazoo School librarian, Charolyn Gundrum, dyed her hair hot pink, passion purple, fire-engine red, and sour-apple green this spring. Why? Gundrum challenged students to collect pennies-per-pledges for books read during March is Reading Month. If students raised more than \$2,000, Gundrum agreed to dye her hair during school hours, in the library—any color(s) the students wished. The kids responded to her challenge by raising more than \$5,000. The funds will be used to purchase ergonomic chairs for the computer lab at the school. By the way, Gundrum wore a sweatshirt bearing the slogan, "I Did This For Kids," to make her trips to the grocery a little easier.

Donna DeButts, outreach coordinator for the Ypsilanti District Library, won the 2001 Athena Award, presented by the Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce Women's Council, for her contribution to women in business.

If you have a news item you would like to contribute, please contact Martha McKee at 517-373-5578.

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